

SOCIO NIGERIA TR POL 23 NIGERIA Department of State TELEGRAM

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91 ACTION AF=18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 UCF-05 UPW-01 SR-01 ORM-03

AID-28 SCS-04 SCA-01 E-15 DOT-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-07

L=03 NSC+10 P-03 RSC-0[PRS-01 SS-20 ACDA-18

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O.P. 212101Z. JAN 70 FM: AMEMBASSY LAGOS: TO: SECSTATE: WASHDC: IMMEDIATE: 1026/ INFO: AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY USMISSION GENEVA USMISSION USUN

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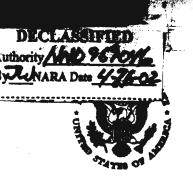
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN RELIEF: REPORT FROM ENCLAVE AREA.

1. FOLLOWING ARE: DEWEY'S OVERALL OBSERVATIONS OF JUST COMPLETED: VISITY TO ENCLAVE:

2. DISASTER OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING HERE. REPORTS EMANATING TO DATE FROM ENCLAVE AREA HAVE GENERALLY SERIOUSLY MISREPRESENTED DIMENSIONS OF PROBLEM. DOCTORS AND RELIEF WORKERS I TALKED TO WERE SURPRISED TO HEAR OF THESE REPORTS AND SAID THAT WAS NOT THE WAY THEY WERE FILED. AT LEAST ONE MILLION PEOPLE ARE IN ACUTE NEED NOW AND SITUATION GROWS WORSE DAILY. PRESENT RELIEF EFFORT IS ESSENTIALLY PARALYZED DUE BEHAVIOUR OF 3RD DIVISION IN OCCUPIED AREAS. THESE ACTIONS, LOOTING, RAPING, COMANDERING, ARE COMMON TO WAR BUT CONSEQUENCES HERE ARE BLOCKAGE OF RELIEF EFFORT. AFTER BRILLIANT TACTICAL EFFORTS, OBASANJO HAS NOW LOST CONTROL OF HIS TROOPS. THERE IS STILL, HOWEVER, NO EVIDENCE OR CHARGES OF KILLING OF CIVILIANS OR OTHER ATROCITIES.

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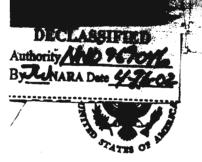
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3. PROBLEM PARTICULARLY EXPLOSIVE BECAUSE PRESSCHAVE/SEEN JUST ENOUGH: DURING RECENT ESCORTED VISIT: TO REALIZE HOW INADEQUATE RELIEF: EFFORT: IS. FACT THAT OBASANJO NOW NOT PERMITTING THEM TO LEAVE PORT HARCOURT MEANS. AT LEAST, THEY WILL: EVENTUALLY VENT THEIR UGLY MOOD AGAINST FMG AND OTHER: GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN: LED BY SUCH REPORTS AS HAVE EMANATED FROM ENCLAVE! TO BELTEVE SOMETHING: SUBSTANTIAL WAS BEING DONE ABOUT RELIEF.

4. NEED CENTERS: AROUND OWERRI WHERE FOUR MAN AUSTRIAN
TEAM: AND ONE LORRY TRYING TO COPE WITH ABOUT 1 MILLION:
PEOPLE: SINCE: MARKET FOOD: COSTLY AND LIMITED. ONE LED TOCONCLUSION THAT MOST NEED: FULL: FEEDING NOW: ALL: WILL NEED:
IT WITHIN: A WEEK. ORLU AREA IS NEXT PRIORITY. EXACT
NUMBERS: ACCESSIBLE FROM ORLU CENTER NOT KNOWN; BUT
DR: HOBBS: (NRC AREA MEDICAL: ADVISOR; ENUGU) ESTIMATES
APPROXIMATELY SAME NUMBER LORRIES REQUIRED THERE AS:
FOR OWERRI. OHAFIA AREA NOT VISITED AND STILL: PRETTY
MUCH A BLANK. MEMBERS OF SCF TEAM. 6 RECENTLY ARRIVED:
AT ORLU FROM AFIKPO DESCRIBED CONDITIONS AS VERY GRAVE;
INCLUDING MANY WOUNDED SOLDIERS. APPROXIMATE DISTRIBUTION
NEEDS RIGHT NOW ARE 200 TONS. AVERAGE DAILY DISTRIBUTION
THIS WEEK HAS BEEN 40-50 TONS.

5. SUFFICIENCY OF LORRIES AT THIS POINT IS ALMOST ACADEMIC. BEHAVIOR OF 3RD DIVISION TROOPS PLACES RED CROSS RELIEF LORRIES IN CONSTANT JEOPARDY AND ELIMINATES. FOR THE MOMENT, USE OF CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES HIDDEN IN ENCLAVE BUSH. COMMERCIAL OPERATORS ARE INSISTING ON ASSURANCES AGAINST LOSING THEIR VEHICLES, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY NEED TO INCLUDE A MILITARY POLICE ESCORT.

6. SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WITH THE 3RD DIVISION INCLUDE:
A. OBASANJO'S "RETURN TO BARRACKS" ORDER APPEARS TO
HAVE BEEN IGNORED. UNSUPERVISED BANDS OF STRAGGLERS AND
MARAUDERS ARE EVERYWHERE.
B. STRAGGLERS SET UP THEIR OWN INFORMAL CHECK POINTS
ALONG ROADS, PRINCIPALLY TO GET RIDES. THEIR MANNER IS
TYPICALLY ARGUMENTATIVE AND THREATENING, FAR MORE:
UNDISCIPLINED CHECKPOINT BEHAVIOR THAN I HAVE SEEN



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BEFORE ON EITHER SIDE. (MY ONLY CONTACT WITH 1ST DIVISION WAS AT SEVERAL: OF ITS CHECKPOINTS BETWEEN ORLU AND ULT THIS A.M. IST DIV. SOLDIERS WERE VERY CORRECT AND COURTEOUS: AND TRIED TO GET RIDES: FOR NEEDY CIVILIANS RATHER THEN THEMSELVES .) C. SOLDIERS: ARE: COMMANDEERING RED: CROSS LORRIES TO: HAUL BOTH MILITARY CARGO AND LOOT. ANY COMMERCIAL OR PRIVATE VEHICLE ON ROAD ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE CONFISCATED. EVERYONE DOING HIS BEST TO HIDE TRANSPORT IN BUSH. AUSTRIAN TEAM TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TODAY TO GET MILITARY LORRIES BADLY NEEDED FOR RELIEF DISTRIBUTION FROM 14/BRIGADE CO AND! OWERRIA CO DID: PROVIDE: TWO DRUMS PETROLIA Do WIDESPREAD MOLESTING OF YOUNG WOMEN, PARTICULARLY NURSES. THIS: IS PARALYZING HOSPITAL WORK AND WILL HINDER OPENING OF SICK BAYS EVEN WHEN FOOD IS AVAILABLE TO SERVICE THEM! RELIEF: TEAMS TRYING TO FIND: MALE NURSES AND OLD WOMEN TO SUPPLEMENT. FEW YOUNG NURSES WHO DO WORK ARRIVE LATE. LEAVELEARLY TO MINIMIZE RISK OF BEING MOLESTED. Es SOLDIERS: WERE OBSERVED AT EMEKUKU TEACHING HOSPITAL LOOTING ITEMS CRITICALLY NEEDED TO RESTORE SUCH FACILITIES TOPNORMALCY. BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF LT. IN CHARGE, WITHOUT RESULTS. LORRY LOADS OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS MOVING ALONG ROADS. MUCH: INDISCRIMINATE DAMAGE: NOTED: IN AREAS LOGTED. (NOT ALLELOOTING: DONE: BY MILETARY'S HOWEVER'S MUCH ALSO DONE BY CIVILIANS IN AREA.) GP-2. TRUEHEART"

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